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VIA FACSIMILE & REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Craig H. Zimmerman
McDermott, Will & Emery
227 West Monroe St.
Chicago, IL 60606-5096

Re: Solutia Request for Access to Mobil Oil property in Cahokia, IL

Dear Craig:

I am writing in response to your May 18, 1999 letter requesting additional information regarding Solutia's request for access to Mobil Oil's property in Cahokia, Illinois. I apologize for the delay in response, but be assured that any delay was merely in an attempt to supply you with the most current and detailed information available to date. I will respond to each of your questions/requests in turn.

Regarding Solutia's deadline with USEPA, Solutia is still continuing to operate under the terms of the January 21, 1999 Administrative Order by Consent between USEPA and Solutia. The Order states that Solutia "shall use its (their) best efforts to obtain all necessary access agreements within 30 calendar days after the effective date of this Order, or as otherwise specified in writing by the RPM." The Order also states that Solutia shall submit a draft EE/CA and RI/FS Support Sampling Plan within thirty days of the effective date of the Order, with requested revisions due within twenty-one days of USEPA's notification of the required changes. As you can see, these original deadlines have been extended due to both ongoing revisions of the sampling plan, as well as additional issues that have arisen in conjunction with obtaining the required access agreements.

Under the original terms of the Order, USEPA contemplated that Solutia would obtain access prior to final approval of the sampling plan. To date, Solutia has obtained signed access agreements from eighteen landowners. Solutia continues to revise the sampling plan in accordance with USEPA's specifications; however, Solutia must be prepared to move forward with the actual sampling once USEPA issues its final approval. For that reason, Solutia is asking for your cooperation regarding access prior to ultimate approval of the sampling plan.

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Although I recognize that you would prefer a more "precise" description of the sampling and testing that will be performed on Mobil's property, the "precise" determination may not be finalized until Solutia's contractors are in the field conducting the testing. The most detailed information that I can provide to you at this point in time is a description of the Soil Gas Survey (attached) to be conducted at Site N, as required by the draft Support Sampling Plan, dated April 9, 1999. As you know, Mobil's property is at the southern border of Site N, and may be tested in conjunction with this Soil Gas Survey. Note, however, that "[a]ll sampling locations will be selected in the field with the concurrence of the USEPA or its designee."


As I mentioned to you in my May 17, 1999 letter, additional soil and/or groundwater sampling could be required by USEPA, but no final determination will be made until Solutia and its contractors, along with USEPA, are in the field conducting the sampling. To date, USEPA has not made specific comments with respect to the testing to be conducted on Mobil's property.

Finally, the following persons at USEPA, Region 5, have been working with Solutia on this project: (1) Michael McAteer, Remedial Project Manager (312-886-4663); and (2) Thomas Martin, Associate Regional Counsel (312-886-4273). Please contact either one of them with additional questions or concerns.

I hope that this information will encourage you to enter into an access agreement with Solutia. Thanks again for your timely consideration to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Thompson Coburn LLP

By 
Colleen E. Michuda

CEM/cem

Enclosures

CC: Thomas Martin, Esq.
Michael McAteer